

THE WASHINGTON POST

13 MAR 1970

Soviet Rebels' Erotic Satire Is Sought by U.S. Publishers

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NEW YORK, March 17—

The briskest of bidding contests among publishers is under way for a literary property that is highly ribald, and is regarded by experts as genuine and wholly novel—the first known example of underground pornographic humor from the Soviet Union.

All the sacred totems of the Soviet state are irrepressibly lampooned in a work smuggled out of the Soviet Union entitled "The Adventures of Supergirl Oktyabrina." The work is in comic-strip form and consists of 150 black and white pictures and a 25,000 word text.

The heroine's name derives from the October revolution of 1917, and she is an earnest embodiment of Marxist-Leninist virtues, which she defends against an assortment of Chinese, Cuban and other counter-revolutionaries in sometimes wildly exotic settings like the Gobi Desert. At one point she is raped by a gorilla.

Endowed with an impressive bosom and with a sexy bottom imprinted with red stars, Supergirl Oktyabrina seems roughly modeled on "Little Annie Fanny" in

Playboy magazine (Playboy is among the bidders for first serialization rights.)

Soviet experts who have studied the work judge it to be as significant in its own terms as some of the protest literature being published by Samizdat, the underground publishing group in Moscow.

Produced collectively by 150 writers and artists in a major Soviet city (not Moscow), the work has come to the West with some prefatory notes explaining the motives of its creators.

"We take refuge in the erotic to shelter ourselves from the allegedly beautiful Soviet present," says one of the authors. "It bores us, and it is grey, grey, grey."

Calling their work Progressive Political Pornography, the authors delight in joining crudely erotic sexual images with the sacred texts and phrases of Marxism. A maxim of the group conveys the anarchist spirit: "Reason and Karl Marx are reduced to nothing by the female arse—a triumph!"

The manuscript was brought to New York by Patrick Scate, managing editor of Observer Books and Features, literary agency of the London Sunday Observer.

The Observer obtained the work from a young emi-

gre from Eastern Europe who said that he travelled frequently in the Soviet Union. During his military service, the emigre served as an interpreter to Gen. Alexander Illich Rodinstev, a Soviet inspector of the Warsaw Pact forces.

During visits to the Soviet Union, the emigre made contact with the underground group publishing political pornography, protest poems and other works which he later smuggled to the West.

The London newspaper subjected both the collection and the story of how it was acquired to rigorous examination by specialists, who judged both to be authentic. Among those now bidding for American rights, besides Playboy, are Doubleday and Grove Press.